



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
San Francisco District

**Project Map**

**PAJARO RIVER AT WATSONVILLE  
SANTA CRUZ - MONTEREY COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 17<sup>th</sup> District, Rep. Sam Farr

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The existing flood control project, consisting of levees and channel improvements on the Pajaro River and Corralitos and Salsipuedes Creeks, was constructed in 1949 to provide 50-year flood protection to the Watsonville area. While the project remains capable of successfully passing the flow rate it was originally designed for, the current level of flood protection is about 25 years. The study is to develop a locally-acceptable plan for flood control features along the Pajaro Main Stem and the Corralitos and Salsipuedes Creeks, in order to increase the level of flood protection afforded by the project.

FISCAL YEAR 03 BUDGET: \$275,000

PRESENT STATUS: A Reconnaissance Study was completed in August 1994 with the recommendation to proceed directly to a General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) on the Corralitos and Salsipuedes Creeks, tributaries of the Pajaro River, in order to improve the level of flood protection. Instances of continued flooding along the main stem of the Pajaro River in 1995, 1997, and 1998 have caused in excess of \$100,000,000 in damages. Therefore, in FY00, it was decided to incorporate the Pajaro River main stem into the ongoing GRR for the creeks. Presently, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties are facilitating a public participation process in the affected communities to develop a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP)

FUTURE EFFORTS: Contingent on federal funding and the local sponsor's LPP process, the GRR is scheduled to be completed in FY04. If the GRR finds a federal interest in flood control improvements along either the Pajaro main stem or Salsipuedes and Corralitos creeks, construction contract plans and specifications would be prepared in FY04 and, if funded, local real estate acquisition and construction could proceed the following fiscal year.